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IN

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IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—PS. 137: 5.

THE RECORD.—TO OUR READERS, AND ESPECIALLY TO OUR AGENTS, AND TO MINISTERS AND KIRK SESSIONS.

OUR forty congregations in the Maritime Provinces represent about 4000 families organized under pastoral supervision. True, we have several vacancies, but a congregation is surely not absolutely dependent on the presence or absence of a minister. As the census returns for these Provinces give us about 36,000 adherents, or say 7000 families, it follows that not many more than half of our people are organized into congregations. A similar sad state of matters holds true of our sister Churches in every part of the Dominion. The census of 1871 gave the number of Presbyterians of all kinds in the Dominion as 544,988, or 15½ per cent. of the population, but the Churches can only account in their returns for about 300,000. So that throughout our country there are more than 200,000 souls, called by our name, that are in a shepherdless state. Can the Christian or the patriot think of this single fact without deep emotion, and inquiring into the causes and the possible remedy. One thing is certain, that there can be no effectual remedy as long as we are in our present divided condition. Union is strength. Disunion is dishonor and weakness.

But we have now to deal with our own little Church. And, leaving out of con-

sideration those families that we cannot account for by our congregational returns, it will be admitted that the 4000 that form our regular constituency should know what our Church is doing, should read the letters of their missionaries, and take an intelligent interest in all her schemes. They cannot know, they cannot do this, unless they read the *Record*, any more than they can know the news of the day, and what their country is doing, if they never see a newspaper. But our circulation, instead of being 4000, is only 1900. Is it possible that more than half of our regular people take no interest in the Church? We do not believe it. Their attention has not been fairly called to the subject. It is system that the Church wants, not the good-will of the people—for that, we are sure, it has already, as truly as any Church in Christendom.

How, then, can we get our circulation for next year increased to at least 3000? The starting of such a question at once suggests that if we ordered so large a number from the publisher, the average price per copy would be less than it is now. And perhaps this fact will help us to get the proposed increase.

This question was started at the two last Synods. One member put the case thus: "At present, 60 copies of the *Record* are taken in my congregation. But I have 140 families, less or more. I wish them all,